

Manfred Schiedhelm (1934-2011)

Carles Muro
Ton Salvadó

The architect Manfred Schiedhelm died in Berlin during the preparation of this DPA number, whose career will be inevitably linked to the project of the Free University of Berlin.

Manfred Schiedhelm was born in 1934 in Worms (Germany) and studied architecture at the Technische Hochschule of Darmstadt, where he graduated in 1958. Between 1958 and 1962, the year he joined the Candilis, Joscic and Woods studio in Paris, he worked with Heinrich Bartmann in Darmstadt and, later on, with Marcel Lods in Paris.

In 1964, due to the recent victory of the Free University competition, Schiedhelm moved to Berlin to coordinate the project's development works and the supervision of the building site in its different construction phases. In 1966 he became a partner of the Candilis-Joscic-Woods-Schiedhelm studio. From the studio of Magdeburger Platz not only did he accompany the works of the Free University with intensity but he also initiated his independent professional activity in 1968. In 1971 he obtained the second prize in the competition for the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris. In 1978 he associated with his wife, Karen Axelrad, continuing his professional career with the Schiedhelm + Partner office.

He was guest professor at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in 1971-1972 and at the Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) between 1973 and 1978. Later on, between 1982 and 1986, at the Technical University of Vienna (Technische Universität Wien) and at the Academy of Fine Arts (Akademie der Kunstest Plásticas) of Munich.

Manfred Schiedhelm died in Berlin on August 9, 2011.

The Sage, the Architect, the Teacher

Josep Ferrando

Wise Albert was a restless and intense person, every fact of life was an opportunity to learn more and better, with a constant emotion to continue learning that he would spread around to others with tenderness and friendliness. On the first day of class with Albert you would realize that you would be able to savour beauty: "attempting to save the true meaning of things... I taught an Architectural Design subject which intended to talk about beauty, measures and proportions, space and light, materials and sensations...The list has beauty as its condition. Nevertheless, it consists on an anti-dogmatic sectarianism, based on the existence of a criterion which allows discerning quality and beauty; not a capricious, random or unipersonal one; on the contrary: a criterion formed by generality pretensions, educated in the values of history, of civilization." Albert Illescas was a sage, in other words, a person who had wisdom, who had profound knowledge and sensitivity in many fields of science and art.

Architect Albert had the ability to use his knowledge in the context in the best possible way. Their houses are the equilibrium between knowledge and the experience from feelings and emotions: "If Architecture is to make spaces that people recognize and can make their own, then it is necessary not to make spaces too rigid (where the designer imposes) or too free (where the user gets lost): design in favour of people rather than for self-satisfaction." Teacher Albert was a person of great passion and generosity, with him you learnt to LIVE: he gave you emotion, he discovered you, he gave you criteria, he talked to you about people, and he did it from the instrument of drawing. His ability to interpret and listen motivated students to follow their own path. Along the way he has left us the notes of what was to be a publication on teaching, from which we show some fragments: educational years, teaching and travelling as a learning tool. Wisdom is the state that gives independence, it was Albert's state.

Traducciones de algunos autores.
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